**Listing of the Claims**

1-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented best indicator adaptive (BIA) method for demand forecasting comprising the steps, performed by a computer, of:

~~computer-implemented~~ implementing a plurality of forecasting subsystems which make use of indicators Load (*L*), Ship (*S*) and Customer Acceptances (CA) history ($CA_{hist}$);

~~computer-implemented~~ generating a forecast ($CA_L$) from Load (*L*) by modeling the ratio of quarter-to-date load to quarter CA actual as a random variable with gamma distribution so that the CA becomes a variable with generalized gamma distribution and computing the sample mean and sigma of the quarter-to-date load to quarter CA actual ratio for a final forecasted $CA_L$ demand;

~~computer-implemented~~ generating a forecast ($CA_S$) from Ship (*S*) by modeling the ratio of quarter-to-date ship to quarter CA actual as a random variable with gamma distribution so that the CA becomes a variable with generalized gamma distribution and computing the sample mean and sigma of the quarter-to-date ship to quarter CA actual ratio for a final forecasted $CA_S$ demand;

~~computer-implemented~~ generating a forecast ($CA_{LS}$) from Load and Ship (*LS*) by forecasting Customer Acceptances (CA) based on Load (*L*), Ship (*S*) and Customer Acceptances history ($CA_{hist}$) to generate $CA_{LS}$ by estimating the functional relationship and the parameters relating the two ratios quarter-to-date load to quarter CA actual and quarter-to-date ship to quarter CA actual;

~~computer-implemented~~ generating a forecast from Customer Acceptances history ($CA_{hist}$);

~~computer-implemented~~ refining the forecasts based on distribution demand using Customer Requested Date (CRAD) by

generating a forecast from Load (*L*) and CRAD as $CA_{L,CRAD}$,

generating a forecast from Ship (*S*) and CRAD as $CA_{S,CRAD}$, and

generating a forecast from Load (*L*) and Ship (*S*) and CRAD as $CA_{LS,CRAD}$;

for each forecast $CA_L$, $CA_S$, $CA_{LS}$, $CA_{L,CRAD}$, $CA_{S,CRAD}$, $CA_{LS,CRAD}$, and $CA_{hist}$, determining a forecast error;

~~computer-implemented~~ eliminating $CA_{LS}$ and $CA_{LS,CRAD}$ if data is for a historical period shorter than a predetermined period;

for all remaining forecasts, selecting the forecast having the forecast error that is the smallest error; and

outputting the selected forecast as an optimum forecast.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented best indicator adaptive (BIA) method for demand forecasting comprising the steps of:

inputting Load (*L*), Ship (*S*) and Customer Acceptances (CA) quarterly history ($CA_{hist}$) data into a computer;

~~computer-implemented~~ implementing on the computer a plurality of forecasting subsystems making use of four sources of information, Load (*L*), Ship (*S*), Customer Acceptances quarterly history ($CA_{hist}$), and Customer Request Date (CRAD);

~~computer-implemented~~ forecasting by the computer Customer Acceptances (CA) based on Load (*L*) to generate $CA_L$ by modeling a ratio of quarter-to-date load to quarter CA actual as a random variable with gamma distribution so that the CA becomes a variable with generalized gamma distribution whose mean and sigma are easily computed from the sample mean and sigma of the quarter-to-date load to quarter CA actual ratio;

~~computer-implemented~~ forecasting by the computer Customer Acceptances (CA) based on Ship (*S*) to generate $CA_S$ by modeling the ratio of quarter-to-date ship to quarter CA actual as a random variable with gamma distribution so that the CA becomes a variable with generalized gamma distribution whose mean and sigma are easily computed from the sample mean and sigma of the quarter-to-date ship to quarter CA actual ratio;

~~computer-implemented~~ forecasting by the computer Customer Acceptances (CA) based on Load (*L*), Ship (*S*) and Customer Acceptances history ($CA_{hist}$) to generate $CA_{LS}$ by estimating the functional relationship and the parameters relating the two ratios quarter-to-date load to quarter CA actual and quarter-to-date ship to quarter CA actual;

~~computer-implemented~~ using a log mean to sigma ratio of CRAD distribution, adjusting, by the computer, the forecasts $CA_L$, $CA_S$ and $CA_{LS}$ to arrive at more accurate forecasts $CA_{L,CRAD}$, $CA_{S,CRAD}$, and $CA_{LS,CRAD}$;

~~computer-implemented~~ for each forecast $CA_L$, $CA_S$, $CA_{LS}$, $CA_{L,CRAD}$, $CA_{S,CRAD}$, $CA_{LS,CRAD}$, and $CA_{hist}$, determining, by the computer, a forecast error;

~~computer-implemented~~ eliminating, performed by the computer, $CA_{LS}$ and $CA_{LS,CRAD}$ if data is for a historical period shorter than a predetermined period;

eliminating any other forecast due to expert knowledge;

for all remaining forecasts, selecting, by the computer, the forecast having the forecast error that is the smallest error; and

outputting, by the computer, the selected forecast as an optimum forecast.